AMERICAN RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

January 15, 1944

Miss Bertha L. Lyons
Hall of Fame - New York University
630 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Miss Lyons,

I was unable yesterday, as I had a piece of work to finish, to talk more at length over the telephone.

I am enclosing a copy of a statement I sent to the Electors of a group that voted on philanthropic personages before the last, I think, election to the Hall of Fame. If you would like to have me send a copy to that same group - or if you prefer to give me the names of the Chapters that proposed Miss Barton so that a copy may be sent them - I will be glad to seethat this is done.

I have been so busy of late years that I have not done what I hoped to do - and which one of the Electors at the last time wrote me he thought ought to be done - prepare a public issue of some sort of a statement of this nature. I do not believe the Red Cross or the Hall of Fame can afford to endorse persons for that Hall unless they really deserve it, and this is a case where certainly the public has been very much fooled.

I may say, for example, that there was a great deal advertised about the work of the Red Cross at the time of the great Johnstown Flood, but in the State Report which I have seen - a voluminous edition - an editor of the report stated that Miss Barton informed him that she was both secretary and treasurer of the Red Cross and that they received and expended in all $39,000. We had the testimony before the Investigating Committee, which was held behind closed doors, from one man who was at Johnstown with Miss Barton that she took back with her a sort of tin trunk that was filled, from top to bottom, with bills that were contributions. We also know that the total in this State Report of receipts and expenditures of funds amounted to over $4,000,000., of which Miss Barton acknowledged $39,000. - less than 1% - as coming through the Red Cross. I am simply giving this little incident, as I do not know whether it was enclosed in the other statement.

I have not yet received your letter, but am sending on this little

LET'S GIVE
WAR FUND
MARCH 1-31

YOUR RED CROSS IS AT HIS SIDE